

Application No. 10/776092

### REMARKS

In the aforementioned Office communication, the examiner rejected claims 16-18 under Section 102 as being clearly anticipated by Hoffer et al. and claims 19-21 under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Hoffer in view of Decker, Gauthier, or Whatley, Sr.

The examiner has correctly noted (1) the use of a clear coat or drying agent or (2) the use of a spot-free rinse or soft-water rinse is known in the trade but in every instance to applicant's knowledge, the clear coat or spot-free rinse are applied individually to the vehicle as alternatives or additives to various wash combinations or in succession as during subsequent passes of a gantry over the vehicle. To applicant's knowledge, no one has applied both a clear coat and a spot-free rinse simultaneously in one pass of a gantry over a vehicle as it was not thought in the trade that the two distinct solutions would work in combination with each other. Applicant has discovered that both solutions can be applied in one pass of the gantry if the apparatus is capable of delivering both solutions simultaneously as in the present invention. Further, by applying a clear coat and a spot-free rinse in one pass, the wash is more efficient and can be accomplished in a shorter period of time thereby making the use of the apparatus more economical.

Independent claim 16 has been amended herein to define a method of washing a vehicle comprising the steps of applying a presoak solution to the vehicle in one pass then simultaneously applying a clear-coat solution and a spot-free rinse solution in a subsequent pass. As mentioned previously, inasmuch as such a method has not been practiced in the prior art nor was it obvious to do so in light of the fact that the industry

Application No. 10/776092


did not feel it would work, it is felt claim 16, as amended, is patentably distinct from the prior art.

Claim 57 is dependent upon claim 16 and further includes the step of adding a dwell pass wherein no solutions are applied to the vehicle between the one pass, wherein the presoak solution is applied, and the subsequent pass, wherein a clear-coat solution and a spot-free rinse solution are applied. The dwell pass allows time for the presoak solution to dissolve dirt and grime on the vehicle but may or may not be necessary as the gantry could simply be left at one end of the vehicle for any selected period of time before the subsequent pass of simultaneously applying the clear-coat and spot-free rinse solutions if it was desired.

Claim 58 is dependent upon claim 57 and further includes the step of applying a cleaning solution to the vehicle in a cleaning pass after the dwell pass but before the subsequent pass defined in claim 57. Of course, both claims 57 and 58 are felt to be patentably distinct from the prior art for the same reasons as claim 16 inasmuch as they are dependent thereon but further because they add steps to the method of claim 16 thereby defining additional methods not known in the art.

There being no other objections or rejections of the application, it is felt it is now in condition for allowance and such action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gary M. Polumbus, Reg. No. 25,364  
USPTO Customer No. 20686  
Tel: (303) 628-1500  
Fax: (303) 629-3450  
e-mail: polumbus.gary@dorsey.com

GMP/dtc